

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the final office action mailed September 27, 2007. In the final office action the Examiner:

- rejected claims 21-24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0167011)
- allowed claims 15-20; and
- objected to claim 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 15-34.

Claim Rejections

Claim 21

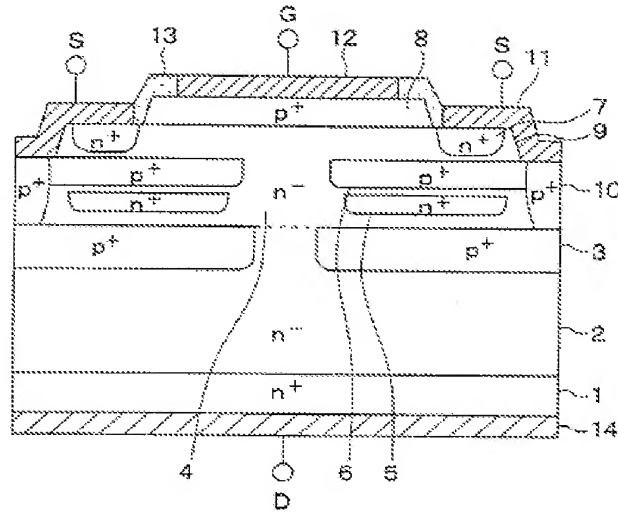
Claim 21, as amended, recites a method for fabricating a dual gate structure for a field effect transistor that comprises a sequence of processing operations:

- etching a gate trench in a surface of a semiconductor substrate;
- forming a first gate region at the bottom of said gate trench;
- implanting a buffer region beneath said first gate region; and
- implanting a second gate region beneath said buffer region, wherein said second gate region is formed entirely beneath said first gate region; wherein **said first gate region and said second gate region together form said dual gate structure.** (emphasis added)

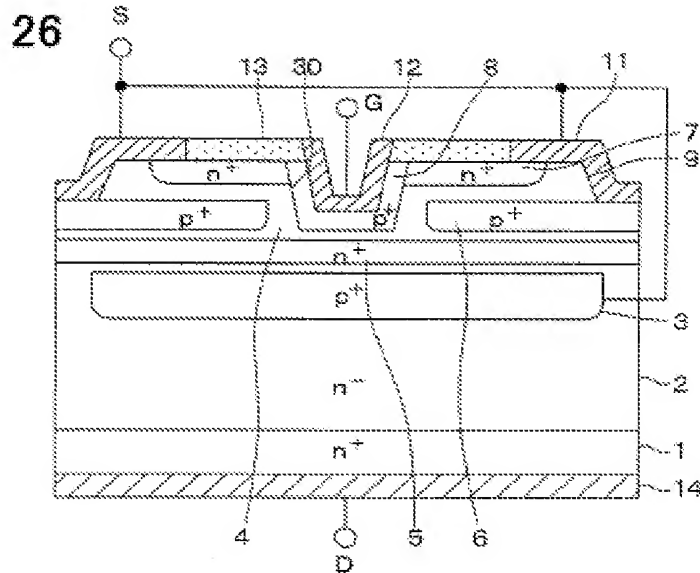
In contrast, Kumar does not teach or disclose a field effect transistor having such dual gate structure as recited in claim 21. Actually, Kumar teaches away from what is recited in claim 21.

Kumar discloses totally 36 embodiments of a silicon carbide semiconductor device. These 36 embodiments all share a common configuration, i.e., the “first gate area 3” (which the Examiner equates to the “second gate region” of the present application) being electrically connected to the source 7, 11 of the device (and therefore insulated from the gate 8, 12 of the device) using one of the following three means:

- P+ contact areas 10 (refer to the 20 embodiments shown in Figs. 1, 9-15, 18, 29-35, 44-45, 48, and 49, respectively; and Fig. 1 is reproduced below for illustration);



- Metal wires (refer to the 14 embodiments shown in Figs. 16-17, 25-28, 36-37, 40-43, 46, and 47, respectively; and Fig. 26 is reproduced below for illustration); or



- [illegible]

Because Kumar does not teach all the limitations as recited in claim 21, claims 21-25 are patentable over Kumar.

Because claims 26 and 30 have been amended in substantially the same manner as claim 21, claims 26-34 are also patentable over Kumar.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-4000, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 30, 2007

/ Gary S. Williams /

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